Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 37935 232109Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /097 W

-----240600Z 111662 /10

R 232236Z DEC 76 FM USMISSION OECD PARIS TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4785 INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 37935

DEPARTMENT PASS COMMERCE BDC/LD FOR PETERSON AND FORMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE FOR INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED DEC. 14 TO
AMBASSADOR TURNER FROM AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR CAMERON
REQUESTING US SUPPORT FOR MR. WOODS AS NEW IC
CHAIRMAN. MISSION IS SENDING COPY OF WOODS BY AIR
POUCH.

BEGIN TEXT: I AM WRITING TO LET YOU KNOW THAT MY AUTHORITIES ARE PROPOSING, AS CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, MR. A. J. WOODS, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, CANBERRA. AS TERMINOLOGY VARIES FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, I SHOULD PERHAPS EXPLAIN THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY IS THE RANK IMMEDIATELY UNDER THE SECRETARY, WHO IS THE PERMANENT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORK OF THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OECD P 37935 232109Z

MR. WOODS' CURRICULUM VITAE IS ATTACHED. YOU WILL SEE THAT HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS IN THE FORMULATION OF INDUSTRY POLICY AND HAS HAD EXTENSIVE OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE. HIS CANDIDACY HAS THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF HIS DEPARTMENT AND OF THE

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, GIVEN IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE EFFORT WHICH MR. WOODS, IF ELECTED, PROPOSES TO GIVE TO THE POSITION.

YOU WILL NO DOUBT BE AWARE THAT AUSTRALIA HAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY HELD A COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP IN OECD.

I HOPE THAT MR. WOODS' CANDIDATURE WILL ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF YOUR COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE. END TEXT

- 2. MISSION IS UNAWARE OF ANY OTHER OFFICIAL CANDIDATES. INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE HEAD BECKLER (US) HAS INFORMED MISSION THAT WOODS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CHAIRMAN, AND THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAVE INFORMALLY TOLD BECKLER THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE. MISSION HAS FOUND WOODS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POSITIONS AND INTERESTS (E.G. MEDIUM-TERM INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS). WE ALSO CONSIDER HIM MORE CONCERNED WITH BROADER POLICY ISSUES AS OPPOSED TO THE LIMITED SECTORAL INTERESTS (E.G. IRON AND STEEL) OF MANY IC REPS.
- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR CAMERON'S LETTER. KATZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INDUSTRY, MEETING CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEES, ELECTION CANDIDATES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Decument Number: 10760505

Document Number: 1976OECDP37935 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D760472-0046 From: OECD PARIS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761217/aaaaaofc.tel Line Count: 87

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: vogelfj

Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15 JUN 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDATE FOR INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TAGS: EIND, US, AS, OECD, (WOODS, A J)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006